

FORT PIERCE NEWS

Vol. 5 NO. 12

FORT PIERCE, ST. LUCIE COUNTY, FLORIDA, FEBRUARY 21, 1908.

\$1.00 A YEAR

ST. LUCIE CO. AT FAIR

DISPLAY ADMIRIED BY ALL VISITORS.

A List of the Prizes that We Are Striving to Win and With Good Prospects.

The St. Lucie county exhibit at the State Fair is still receiving its share of favorable comment from the visitors. Notwithstanding the fact that the fruit has been off the trees for nearly three weeks it is in good condition and still leads everything on the grounds in quality. At this writing (Monday) nothing has been brought in to eclipse our showing. There are larger exhibits, and nearly all have better decorations, but none are better for high grade fruit. The nearby counties have been constantly receiving fresh fruits and vegetables, while St. Lucie has received very little to reinforce her exhibit. Even with the fresh stock we are still on top in that respect. We (pardon the editorial pronoun) have had many amusing experiences and several wordy conflicts as to relative quality of the East and West coast fruit. In every instance we have challenged the west coast enthusiasts to produce even one specimen of fruit to eclipse any one specimen of ours. As yet ours stand first. We have even offered to let them select one dozen of our poorest oranges to go against the same number of their best.

We think we have the best and so say the visitors, but what the judges will say within the next two days is another matter. The fact that the judging has been put off so late has caused considerable anxiety on the part of many exhibitors, including the commissioner from St. Lucie. Not only is the fruit being held too long for the best show, but it is impossible to keep down the thieving. As an example of the latter, we put out and intended for six sizes three boxes of oranges, one box of kings, two boxes of grapefruit and several other articles, and on Saturday night they were in good shape. Monday morning when we arrived we found a dozen oranges gone from a box of 9's, a quarter of a box of Tahiti limes, and one to four grapefruit out of each special box as well as about fifteen king oranges gone. Nearly every box with an entry tag had been tampered with and the effect spoiled. Now there were plenty of these same fruit spread out in various places where the thief could have helped himself without ruining our chances for special premiums, but this was not touched. Therefore to a man up a tree it looks like someone interested in these same premiums knew something about it. We have registered a generous kiek of course, but whether or not the judges will consider that is another thing.

Among the premiums entered for are the following:

- The county making the largest and best display of pineapples.
- The individual making the largest and best display of pineapples.
- The largest dozen pineapples.
- The best dozen pineapples.
- The best specimen of pineapple plants in fruit.
- The best specimen of banana with fruit.
- The best display of bananas.
- The best box of oranges.
- The best box of grapefruit.
- The best box of tangerines.
- The best box of kumquats.
- The best box of limes.
- The best box of King oranges.
- The best crate of tomatoes.
- The best dozen egg plant.
- The best bushel of sweet potatoes.
- The best crate of beans.

Some of these we expect to get; others we are doubtful about, but whatever the outcome St. Lucie county will be benefited and the county commissioners should not let another year go by without an appropriation for an exhibit at the State Fair to compete with other counties for the grand prize.

Among the St. Lucie county people who have visited the exhibit during the past week were W. H. Robinson of Alford, Mr. and Mrs. Ivy Lawson and son and daughter of Sebastian and Arthur Kroegel of Sebastian.

POSTOFFICE ORDER NO. 907

Delinquent Subscribers Must Be Crossed from Subscription List

On January 1, 1908, the Postoffice Department put into effect order 907, containing many important amendments to the Postal Laws and Regulations affecting the mailing of Second-Class Mail Matter.

The new regulations provide that a publisher may send sample copies to the extent of 10 per cent of his paid circulation. This is a radical change, but more important and working a revolution in the business methods of weekly, local and religious papers is the following:

"A reasonable time will be allowed publishers to secure renewals of subscriptions but unless subscriptions are expressly renewed after the term for which they are paid, within the following period: WEEKLIES WITHIN ONE YEAR, they shall not be counted in the legitimate list of subscribers, and copies mailed on account thereof shall not be accepted for mailing at the second-class postage rate."

From Fertile Florida.

J. C. Tilson of Morse, is shipping considerable grapefruit.

E. P. Powell of Sarasota has on exhibition a sweet potato weighing 18 pounds.

Strawberry shipping from Starke has been set back by the recent cold snap.

B. E. Raysor has been shipping some very fine fruit from his grove near Palatka.

William H. Towles of Fort Myers, has had five acres set out with grapefruit trees at Immokalee.

Walden, the Magician.



Walden, who is highly spoken of by the press, will be at the Improvement Club hall Saturday night. Admission 35 and 50c. Tickets on sale at the Fort Pierce Drug Store.

Railroad Man Killed.

Earley Boyd, a brakeman on the local freight between here and New Smyrna, was accidentally run over by the engine Tuesday morning at Oak Hill and died that afternoon in the hospital at St. Augustine. Mr. Boyd tried to jump on the pilot of the moving engine, but his foot slipped and he fell under the engine, which crushed off both legs. He was taken to the hospital immediately, but the physicians were unable to save his life.

Special Council Meeting.

Notice is hereby given that a special meeting of the City Council will be held Tuesday, February 25 at 7:30 p. m. We ask that every property owner on Orange avenue from Magnolia street west, meet with us so that we can decide on something definite as to the width of said street.

Ed. EDGE, Chairman.

Notice of Stockholders' Meeting.

The annual meeting of the stockholder's of the R. D. Hoke Co., will be held at the office of the Company at Jensen, Florida, on March 3rd, 1908, at ten o'clock, a. m.

There will also be a meeting on the same day and at the same place of the Board of Directors of said Company. C. VAN BRUNT, Secretary.

IS NO CONSPIRACY

SO SAYS THE EDITOR OF THE PRODUCE NEWS.

Natural Causes and Growers Themselves to Blame for Unsatisfactory Conditions.

There has been more or less complaint recently in the Florida press, which should know better, that there is a conspiracy on the part of the fruit dealers in New York and other large markets, to keep down the price of oranges. They claim that the rush of immature fruit to the market early in the season caused buyers to make heavy losses and growers seem to feel that the present low prices here and in other markets are due to the united effort on the part of these buyers to recoup their losses by forcing the market down to such prices that they will be able to buy the remainder of the crop at a figure that will assure them a profit.

An article bearing on this subject, taken from the Florida Agriculturist, is printed in another column. It tells plainly how the growers seem to feel about the matter.

Nothing can be farther from the truth than talk of such a conspiracy. On the face of it, it is almost an impossibility. Anyone who knows anything of the New York fruit trade, for example, knows that it is very hard to get them together in anything, let alone a conspiracy against the Florida orange growers. These growers seem to lose sight of the fact that the quality and condition of the Florida oranges, which have come out of the State this season, as a general thing, been far from good. Although promises were made that the fruit would be better after the first of the year the improvement has not been particularly noticeable.

The real truth of the matter is that the Florida growers have themselves largely to blame for the low prices which their fruit is and has been bringing. When the season started and car after car of green, half-ripe, immature fruit was shipped, we tried in every way to convince the growers that they were acting foolishly; that such a course in the end would work against them, but as is usual with good advice, it was not heeded. Now, what we predicted has come to pass. After being stung once by a green, sour Florida orange, customers are naturally wary about trying any more of them no matter how good they may appear.

The law of supply and demand governs in the orange market the same as it does in others. Supplies of oranges from all sections have been liberal this season, with all demands more or less curtailed, due in a great measure to the financial stringency. Oranges, with the middle classes—the great portion of the consumers—are more or less of a luxury. When a financial pinch comes, oranges as well as other fruits, are among the first things cut out. The trade has felt this, receivers on the New York and other great markets say they have seldom known a time when the orange demand has been so dull. Prices of all fruits have suffered and there is no reason why oranges should be an exception. Conditions are improving now and better prices are bound to come if the quality of the fruit will justify.

There is no conspiracy against the Florida growers, never has been nor ever will be. By organization growers can protect their interests. Years ago there was a Fruit Exchange in Florida for the marketing of the citrus crops. It died, but it looks to us as though a revival of something on the same line would be a distinct advantage to Florida growers as it has to those in California. Wild talk of a conspiracy is not only untrue, but unfair to the commission men in the northern and eastern markets, as well as those in the west, as they are on the whole an upright and honorable body of men.

C. C. Fank and L. H. Wilson, truckers at Pierson, Volusia county, are preparing to plant 25 acres in watermelons and cantaloupes.

CIRCUIT COURT

Special Term Ended Friday—Regular Term Now On

The adjourned special term of circuit court was closed last Friday at noon, and the regular spring term of court was called Tuesday morning by Judge Minor S. Jones.

The following cases were finally disposed of at the special term since our last report:

Mack Keith, robbery, indictment quashed.

Louis Huffman, selling liquor, not guilty.

S. P. Robinson, same, not guilty.

A. Rowe, forgery, not guilty.

The first business of the regular term was the swearing in and charging of the grand jury, who deliberated until Thursday noon, when they made their report.

State vs. Geo. Long was taken up; still on trial.

St. Andrews' Church Club for Boys.

The St. Andrews' Church club met and organized at Mrs. D. C. McCarty's residence Monday evening. Before the election of officers several musical numbers were rendered by Miss E. Cramer, W. W. Hunter and C. F. Halliday. Rev. George Moore next appointed W. J. Nesbitt chairman pro tem and the election of officers proceeded as follows: President, W. E. Tylander; vice president, H. K. Budd; secretary, R. J. Waters; treasurer, F. R. Stetson. Charter members beside the above are G. W. Kimball, W. W. Hunter, Francis Cross, James Cook, Charles Crogan and C. F. Halliday. Those present not club members were Mr. and Mrs. D. C. McCarty, Misses Edith Tyler, Ethel Cramer and Mrs. George Moore. Lunch was then served and after short addresses by Dr. Moore and Capt. Nesbitt the club adjourned, having enjoyed a very pleasant evening.

Church Notices.

Mass service will be held every Sunday morning at 9 o'clock in St. Joachim's Chapel, on the river front, by the Rev. D. Guilbault.

M. E. Church, South, Sunday, February 23rd. Sunday school, 10 a. m. Preaching 11 a. m., by the pastor, sermon especially for children. Preaching 7 p. m., by pastor, S. K. Jewell, P. C.

Morning worship in St. Andrew's Episcopal church at 11 o'clock. Theme for sermon: "He summoned the young man to be brought unto him." Sunday school 10 o'clock. W. T. Harbin, superintendent. Evening worship, 7:30 o'clock. Theme for sermon: "True piety and faith in Jesus Christ will be blessed." Wednesday evening service, 7:30 o'clock. Friday choir will meet in the church at 3 p. m. Mrs. W. E. Tylander, organist; William Hunter, violinist. Mrs. D. T. McCarty will sing a solo. Seats are free; everybody welcome. George Moore, D. D., pastor.

JENSEN

There will be services in All Saints' Church, Jensen, next Sunday afternoon at 2 o'clock. Subject of sermon, "The communion of saints and the forgiveness of sins." Everybody cordially invited. Conveyance leaves Jensen for the church at 10 minutes past 2.

WALTON

Services in St. Paul's Church, Walton, next Sunday morning at 10:30. Subject of sermon, "The communion of saints and the forgiveness of sins." Everybody cordially invited.

STUART

Dedication services for the M. E. church, South, at Stuart are to be held Sunday, March 1st. Presiding Elder Ley of Jacksonville, will be present to conduct the services. All former Presiding Elders, pastors and friends are invited to attend. S. K. Jewell, pastor. Trustees, Robt. McPherson, H. S. Witham, B. Kitching, Charles Guiler, M. Platt.

It is claimed by one fruit grower that not more than 20 per cent. of the orange crop south of Tarpon Springs has been shipped yet owing to the low prices in the north. If this is true it means a lot of work for someone.

THE COMMISSIONERS

DELAYED REPORT OF REGULAR MEETING.

Court Room Rented for Next Year. Considerable Road Business Transacted.

The county commissioners met in regular session February 3, 1908.

Present C. H. Edwards chairman, P. Kroegel, Peter Raulerson, J. F. Bell and J. H. Baker with J. N. Fultz clerk and D. S. Carlton sheriff.

The minutes of last regular meeting were read and on motion same were approved.

Road commissioner's report of G. A. Powers and A. Y. W. Hogg, recommending the opening of a public road as following:

Beginning at the bridge across Five Mile creek leading from Jennings' saw mill, thence to the north side of Frank Hortons place, thence in a westerly direction to a point about 400 feet west of the Indian mound, thence in a southerly direction across Ten Mile Creek to the south east corner of A. Y. W. Hogg's place, thence in a westerly direction to Eagle Island, said road to be 30 feet wide, was received and on motion said road is declared a public road and ordered open.

On motion Arthur B. Brown and K. B. Raulerson are appointed to represent St. Lucie county at the Florida State Fair to be held at Tampa, Fla., beginning on the 5th day of February and terminating on the 22nd day of February, A. D., 1908. The county to be put to no expense in connection therewith.

The bonds of D. E. Austin and E. A. Holt were approved.

Three letters from J. R. Parrott were received and filed.

Report of G. E. Dutton, tax collector of polls \$18.00, and licenses, \$24.00, collected during the month of January was received and filed.

The board adjourned to meet at 1:30 p. m. and convened at said hour, all present.

The petition of Robert F. Garrison, C. H. Racey, et al, praying for a public road as follows: Beginning at the point where the county road crosses the section line between sections 23 and 26, T 37S, R 41E, run west along said section line, the continuation being between sections 22 and 27, to the Florida East Coast railway, said road to be 30 feet wide, received, and R. D. Hoke, Chas. Segerstrom and F. W. Willes are appointed a committee to view, mark and survey said road and report to this board at its next regular meeting.

No further protest having been filed against opening the following road; beginning at the ne corner of the sw 1/4 of sec 14, sec 9, tp 35s, r 40e, thence run to the ne corner of sw 1/4 of sec 14, thence south 40 degrees, west 1 1/2 miles, 1 chain, 72 links; thence south 86 degrees, west 10 chains, 73 links to Five Mile grade, total distance 2 miles, 2 chains and 45 links said road to intersect with public road lying north of Mrs. E. Carlton's home place, to Ten Mile creek, said road to be 30 feet wide, said road is declared a public road and ordered opened.

On motion, the proposition of the Fort Pierce Improvement Club, to rent Improvement Club Hall to county for circuit court purposes at \$50.00 per term (regular and special), for the year 1908, is rejected.

On motion the board offers \$100.00 for rent of Improvement Club Hall for the year 1908, for use of circuit court.

Reports of J. E. Fultz clerk and F. M. Tyler justice of the peace, received and filed.

On motion the board adjourned to meet at 8 o'clock a. m., February 4th.

The board of county commissioners met on February 4th at 8 o'clock a. m., present C. H. Edwards chairman, P. Kroegel, J. F. Bell and Peter Raulerson with Homer Conkling deputy clerk and D. S. Carlton sheriff.

The offer of Carlton Brothers to rent the use of their hall for circuit court purposes, at \$25.00 per term including regular and special terms as one term, was accepted and the board proceeded

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